

IN THE CLAIMS

Upon entry of the present amendment, the status of the claims will be as is shown herein. This listing of claims replaces all previous versions and listings of claims in the present application.

Claims 1-49 (Cancelled)

50. (Currently Amended) A data management method, comprising:

receiving, at an information manager from a first communications device associated with an information recipient, and independently of a second communications device distinct from the first communications device, an information recipient identification that identifies the information recipient and content identification particular to and distinctly identifying content selected by the information recipient, the content being provided to the information recipient by a unidirectional communication from an information provider, the content identification being stored in a database in association with the information recipient identification when the information manager receives the content identification and information recipient identification, and the content identification being linked in the database to reference data associated with the content selected by the information recipient; and

permitting access to the information manager from the second communications device independently of the first communications device,

wherein the database enables access to the reference data linked to the content identification from the second communications device over a path different from a path over which the information manager receives the information recipient identification and content identification from the first communications device.

51. (Previously Presented) The data management method of claim 50,
wherein the content is received at a content receiving device from the information
provider,
wherein the first communications device receives a signal from the content receiving
device when the information recipient selects content, and
wherein the first communications device forwards the information recipient identification
and the content identification to the information manager based on the signal received from the
content receiving device.

52. (Previously Presented) The data management method of claim 50,
wherein the content is received at a content receiving device from the information
provider,
wherein the first communications device receives a signal from a remote controller when
the information recipient selects content, and
wherein the first communications device forwards the information recipient identification
and the content identification to the information manager based on the signal received from the
remote controller.

53. (Previously Presented) The data management method of claim 50,
wherein the content is received at the first communications device from the information
provider,

wherein the first communications device receives a signal from a remote controller when the information recipient selects content, and

wherein the first communications device forwards the information recipient identification and the content identification to the information manager based on the signal received from the remote controller.

54. (Previously Presented) The data management method of claim 50,

wherein the information recipient identification and the content identification are received from the first communications device based on a signal received from a remote controller generated when the information recipient selects content, and

wherein the remote controller comprises a plurality of information designating buttons for separate individuals, each information designating button corresponding to a different information recipient identification.

55. (Previously Presented) The data management method of claim 50,

wherein the content is received by and presented to the information recipient using a content receiving device, and

wherein a portable controller is used to select the selected content.

56. (Previously Presented) The data management method of claim 50,

wherein the information recipient identification comprises one of a personal identification that uniquely identifies an individual information recipient, and a group identification that identifies a group of associated individual information recipients.

57. (Previously Presented) The data management method of claim 50, wherein the content identification comprises at least one of a time when the information recipient selects the selected content, and a channel by which the information recipient receives the selected content.

58. (Previously Presented) The data management method of claim 50, wherein the content identification comprises codes which identify the selected content, the codes being applied to the content prior to the content being provided to the information recipient.

59. (Previously Presented) The data management method of claim 50, wherein the reference data comprises at least one of detailed information which describes the selected content and detailed information which describes a subject of selected content.

60. (Previously Presented) The data management method of claim 50, wherein the reference data comprises at least one of date indicating information which indicates a date when the selected content is selected, a program indicating information which indicates an identity of the selected content as a media program, a program genre indicating information which indicates a genre of the selected content, a region indicating information which indicates a region in which the selected content is selected, and a sponsor indicating information which identifies a sponsor of the selected content.

61. (Previously Presented) The data management method according to claim 50, wherein the reference data comprises at least one of date indicating information, program indicating information, program genre indicating information, region indicating information, and sponsor indicating information,

wherein at least one of the date indicating information, the program indicating information, the program genre indicating information, the region indicating information, and the sponsor indicating information is retrieved by the second communications device as at least one retrieval key using the information manager, and

wherein the at least one retrieved retrieval key is displayed on the second communications device in order based on frequency of usage.

62. (Previously Presented) The data management method of claim 50, wherein the content comprises at least one of audio information and video information.

63. (Previously Presented) The data management method of claim 50, wherein the content comprises information included in printed material.

64. (Previously Presented) The data management method of claim 50, wherein the content comprises at least one of broadcast information, aired information, and information disclosed at an event.

65. (Previously Presented) The data management method of claim 50, further comprising:

storing in the database, by the information manager, the information recipient identification and the content identification.

66. (Previously Presented) The data management method of claim 50, wherein the information recipient identification and the content identification are stored in the database by an apparatus external to the information manager.

67. (Previously Presented) The data management method of claim 50, further comprising:

storing in the database, by the information manager, the reference data.

68. (Previously Presented) The data management method of claim 50, wherein the reference data is stored in the database by an apparatus external to the information manager.

69. (Previously Presented) The data management method of claim 50, wherein the reference data is added to the content prior to the content being selected by the information recipient.

70. (Previously Presented) The data management method of claim 50, wherein the information manager calls at least one of the content and the reference data upon receiving the information recipient identification and the content identification, the called

at least one of the content and the reference data being stored in the database in association with the information recipient identification.

71. (Previously Presented) The data management method of claim 50, further comprising:

receiving the selected content at the information manager; and
storing the selected content in the database by the information manager.

72. (Previously Presented) The data management method of claim 50, further comprising:

receiving the selected content at the information manager,
wherein the selected content is stored in the database by an apparatus external to the information manager.

73. (Previously Presented) The data management method of claim 50,
wherein the information recipient receives the content using at least one of a set top box and a television receiver.

74. (Previously Presented) The data management method of claim 50,
wherein the content recipient identification comprises one of a code particular to a content receiving device, a code particular to a selected content identification transmission device, and a code particular to the content recipient who selects the content.

75. (Currently Amended) An information manager that receives, from a first communications device associated with an information recipient, and independently of a second communications device distinct from the first communications device, an information recipient identification that identifies the information recipient and content identification particular to and distinctly identifying content selected by the information recipient, the content being provided to the information recipient by a unidirectional communication from an information provider, the content identification being stored in a database in association with the information recipient identification when the information manager receives the content identification and information recipient identification, and the content identification being linked in the database to reference data associated with the content selected by the information recipient, the information manager permitting access from the second communications device independently of the first communications device,

wherein the database enables access to the reference data linked to the content identification from the second communications device over a path different from a path over which the information manager receives the information recipient identification and content identification from the first communications device.

76. (Previously Presented) The information manager of claim 75, further comprising:
a read-out device configured to read out the reference data stored in the database at the request of the second communications device; and
a reference data transmitter that transmits the reference data to the second communications device at the request of the second communications device.

77. (Previously Presented) The information manager of claim 75, further comprising:
a read-out device configured to read out at least one of the content identification and the reference data stored in the database at the request of the second communications device; and
a data transmitter that transmits at least one of the content identification and the reference data linked to the content identification to the second communications device at the request of the second communications device.

78. (Previously Presented) The information manager of claim 75,
wherein a mark added to the content indicates that the reference data has been added to the content.

79. (Previously Presented) The information manager of claim 75,
wherein the information recipient receives the content at a set top box, the set top box comprising:

a content receiver;
a designation signal receiver that receives signals for selecting content from a remote controller; and
a data sender that sends content identification for selected content to the information manager via the first communications device.

80. (Previously Presented) The information manager of claim 75,
wherein the first communications device comprises a set top box used by the information recipient to receive the content, the set top box comprising:

a content receiver;
a designation signal receiver that receives signals for selecting content from a remote controller; and
a data sender that sends content identification for selected content to the information manage.

81. (Previously Presented) The information manager of claim 75,
wherein the information recipient receives the content at a television receiver, the television receiver comprising:

a content receiver;
a display device that displays the received content;
a designation signal receiver that receives signals for selecting content from a remote controller; and
a data sender that sends content identification for selected content to the information manager via the first communications device.

82. (Previously Presented) The information manager of claim 75,
wherein the first communications device comprises a television receiver used by the information recipient to receive the content, the television receiver comprising:

a content receiver;
a display device that displays the received content;
a designation signal receiver that receives signals for selecting content from a remote controller; and

a data sender that sends content identification for selected content to the information manager.

83. (Previously Presented) The information manager of claim 75,
wherein the second communications device comprises one of a navigation terminal and a PHS, and

wherein a region indicator is compared with current position information resident in one of the navigation terminal and the PHS, and, when the region indicator and the current position information match a similarity threshold, at least one of the selected content and the reference data is displayed on the second communications device.

84. (Currently Amended) A data management method, comprising:
providing content from an information provider through a providing arrangement, the content being associated with content identification, the providing arrangement being a unidirectional communication;

selecting content by an information recipient associated with and using a first communications device distinct from a second communications device;

transmitting from the first communications device independently of the second communications device, when the information recipient selects content, content identification particular to and distinctly identifying each piece of selected content to an information manager through a communications arrangement;

storing in a database, by one of the information manager and an external device, the content identification transmitted to the information manager, when the information manager

receives the content identification, the database associating reference data linked to the content identification with at least one recipient identifier that identifies an information recipient with identifying data; and

accessing the information manager from the second communications device independently of the first communications device,

whereby the database enables identification of reference data linked to the content identification of the selected content in the database, and transmission of the reference data to the second communications device over a path different from a path over which the first communications device transmits the content identification to the information manager.

85. (Currently Amended) A data management system, comprising:

an information provider that provides content to an information recipient through a providing arrangement, the content being associated with content identification, the providing arrangement being a unidirectional communication, the information recipient selecting content provided ~~through~~ from the information provider;

a first communications device associated with the information recipient and transmitting independently of a second communications device distinct from the first communications device, when the information recipient selects content, an information recipient identification that identifies the information recipient and content identification particular to and distinctly identifying each piece of selected content;

an information manager that receives the information recipient identification and the content identification, particular to and distinctly identifying each piece of selected content, from the first through a communications device arrangement;

a database that stores, by one of the information manager and an external device, the content identification transmitted to the information manager, when the information manager receives the content identification, the database associating reference data linked to the content identification with at least one recipient identifier that identifies an information recipient with identifying data,

wherein the information manager is accessible from the second communications device independently of the first communications device, and

wherein the database enables identification of reference data linked to the content identification of the selected content in the database, and transmission of the reference data to the second communications device over a path different from a path over which the first communications device transmits the information recipient identification and content identification to the information manager.